



507 Air Refueling Wing, Tinker AFB, Okla.
November 2017

THE ON-FINAL



**ONCE AN OKIE ALWAYS AN OKIE:
THE HISTORY OF RESERVE AIRMEN AT TINKER**



THE HISTORY BEHIND THE ON-FINAL COVER

The cover of the April 1976 edition of The Thunderchief, the former newspaper of the Fighting 507th Okies. The cover of this month's On-final magazine is a tribute to the wing's past, commemorating the 45th Anniversary of the 507th Air Refueling Wing at Tinker Air Force Base and Tinker's 75th Anniversary. Story on page 15 and online [HERE](#).

COVER

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THE HISTORY OF RESERVE AIRMEN AT TINKER

Story and cover illustration by Maj. Jon Quinlan

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LAYOUT BY TECH. SGT. SAMANTHA MATHISON

VIDEO: OKIE UNVEILS HERITAGE ARTWORK



Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Peter Dean, 927th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

During the 49th Air Mobility Command and Airlift/Tanker Association Symposium in Orlando, Oct. 26 through 29, Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller, chief of the Air Force Reserve and commander, Air Force Reserve Command, unveiled the painting “Earth, Blood and Fire,” a painting that depicts the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems (MAFFS) mission of the Air Force Reserve’s 731st Airlift Squadron, 302nd Airlift Wing, Peterson, Air Force Base, Colorado.

The painting, created by artist and boom operator Senior Master Sgt. Darby Perrin, 507th Air Refueling Wing, Tinker Air force Base, Oklahoma, is the latest edition in the Air Force art program ‘Inspire with Heritage.’ A program, designed to showcase the Air Force Reserve story, highlight the Air Force Reserve’s strengths and build pride throughout the ranks. To read more, [CLICK HERE.](#)



Reserve RECRUITERS

GET **1** NOW



Senior Master Sgt.
Donald Cantrell
Flight Chief
Tinker AFB, OK
Office (405) 734-5331
Cell (405) 409-4784



Master Sgt.
Cody Newsom
Line Recruiter
Tinker AFB, OK
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Altus, OK
Cell (405) 409-5170



Tech. Sgt.
Joseph Salley
Line Recruiter
Midwest City, OK
Cell (405) 409-5811

For information on opportunities in the AF Reserve,
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NOVEMBER UTA NOV. 4-5

GLOBAL THUNDER

OPERATION HOLIDAY SPIRIT @ 1800
AMERICAN LEGION/VFW, DEL CITY - NOV. 4

COMMANDER'S CALL, BASE THEATER @1500 - NOV. 5

MIDWEST CITY VETERAN'S DAY PARADE - NOV. 10

DECEMBER UTA DEC. 2-3

ANGEL TREE CHRISTMAS PARTY
NORMAN VETERANS CENTER @ 0900 - DEC. 21

JANUARY UTA JAN. 6-7

CIV OF QTR DUE - JAN. 15

FEBRUARY UTA FEB. 3-4

COMMANDER'S CALL, BASE THEATER @1500 - FEB. 3

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET @ TIME TBD - FEB. 3

MARCH UTA MAR. 3-4

ATSO WALK EVENT

APRIL "SUPER UTA" APR. 5-8

CIV OF QTR DUE - APR. 15

MAY UTA MAY 5-6

Do you have an event to add?

[Contact us at 507arw.pa2@us.af.mil](mailto:507arw.pa2@us.af.mil)

“Don’t Worry. Really.”

By Ch. (Capt.) John C. Weston

I have never been a fan of the phrase “do as I say, not as I do.” To encourage behavior, we must model it. I have done a decent job, I thought, with one glaring exception: worrying. You see, in most jobs, especially for officers, concern over details is rewarded as part of the career field. But concern is not worry. Concern is taking the proper precautions and thought, executing what needs doing, and then not paying additional mind to the topic until needed. Worry is a needless, often ceaseless thought on future outcomes which you most likely have no control over.

Jesus spoke often of worry—specifically saying, in Matthew 6:25-34 (NIV) “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”



(U.S Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Nadine Barclay)

Jesus knew that worry produces nothing. Even worse, it is an insidious way of doubting God – as Jesus said, “you of little faith!” While sometimes we wonder if what we do is within God’s will or not, worry is definitely not one of those things. Worry steals the happiness from our hours, the taste from our food and the joy of being with loved ones. Worry is a silent killer until it erupts in a usually physical or mental way that harms the body. Stress and worry are contributors to heart attack and other deadly events.

Not worrying is not a demonstration of faith in yourself, but in God. If we are living for our choices, our will and our desired outcomes, we indeed have much to worry about! But we need not, because our will is not the one that shall come to pass. It is God’s will that will be done! If ours tangentially aligns with his, then we see results we can mistake for our own actions.

Recently, I stopped worrying as much because I just recognized the physical and mental toll that it took. Most people say, “If it was that easy, everyone would do it!” But indeed, stopping worry is not the result of a negative – not doing something; it is the expression of a positive action – embracing faith. Those who have faith in God will stop worrying by virtue of the fact that we realize that one, there is a God in this universe and two, we are not Him. The rest we must pray and ask for strength and the renewing of our minds so that we may not worry. When we turn from just embracing a negative to embracing a positive, we will find our actions much easier to take.

ATSO: LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

by Lt. Col. Elizabeth Kettler
Director of Operations, 507th Inspector General

Thank you to everyone for a successful Ability to Survive and Operate exercise during the October UTA. We grew leaps and bounds in our learning. Your Wing Inspection Team did a great job observing, evaluating and teaching. Col. Gullion was so pleased with your performance that he wants to do an ATSO event in March 2018. To prepare, be sure to:

- 1 Account for your gear and ensure it fits properly.
- 2 Order any equipment or gear you may be missing.
- 3 Get your gas mask fit test and gas mask inserts.
- 4 Inspect your mask and sign the form 1574 in your gas mask carrier.
- 5 Make sure you have a black canteen cap that fits into your mask.
- 6 Read the Airman's Manual.



Members of the 507th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron demonstrate post attack reconnaissance skills during the ability to survive and operate under hostile conditions exercise Oct. 14, 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)



During December's UTA, the Inspector General office, Emergency Management and Communications are offering training on: Post Attack Reconnaissance (PAR), Shelter Management and Land Mobile Radio (LMR). Please contact the IGI office at 734-4259 with questions.

Senior Master Sgt. Dave Strawderman, 507th Maintenance Squadron production superintendent, communicates with members of his team in a simulated bunker on the flightline Oct. 14, 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)



November 2017

A&FRC

{ Transition }

7-8 Nov: Career Technical Training Track
@ 8am-4pm
7-8 Nov: Entrepreneurship 2 Day Track
@ 8:30am-4pm (Rose State College)
13-17, & 27 Nov-1 Dec: Transition GPS
@ 7:30am-4:30pm
20 Nov: VA Benefits Briefing
@ 8am-3pm
Every Wednesday: Pre-Separation
@ 1:30pm-4pm **Except 22 Nov

{ Relocation Assistance }

2 Nov: Tinker Family Orientation
@ 7:30am-3pm *Call A&FRC for Details
13 & 27 Nov: Smooth Move
@ 9am-10:30am
14 Nov: SLMB
@ 7:30am-12:30pm

{ Career Focus }

7 Nov: Federal Application Workshop
@ 1:30pm-3:30pm
14 Nov: Resume Writing Workshop
@ 1:30pm-3:30pm
21 Nov: Interviewing 101 Workshop
@ 1:30pm-3:30pm
28 Nov: Are you LinkedIn?
@ 1:30pm-3:30pm

{ Personal Work Life }

3 Nov: Goal Setting
@ 9am-11am
13 Nov: Life in Balance
@ 1:30pm-2:30pm

{ Financial Management }

6 Nov: BRS/TSP
@ 10am-11:30am
15 Nov: Couples & Money
@ 11am-12pm

{ Readiness }

Every Tuesday: Pre-Deployment
@ 8am-10am
Every Thursday: Reintegration
@ 8am-10am **Except 23 Nov
Every Friday: Pre-Deployment
@ 1pm-3pm **Except 10 & 24 Nov

{ Give Parents a Break }

18 Nov: GPAB
@ 1pm-6pm
*Contact CDC-West and/or Youth Center

Can't come to us? We can come to you!
Many of our workshops are portable.
Call us to see how we can bring training to your unit!



A CLOSER

Senior Master Sgt. Thomas "TC" Cougill

**507TH FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON
COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS SUPERINTENDENT**

WHAT IS A LITTLE KNOWN FACT ABOUT YOU?

I've never driven in the snow, so it should be fun come this winter!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTER IN A MOVIE?

Rudy is my favorite movie, so I'd have to say Sean Astin playing Rudy since he overcame all obstacles thrown his way in order to play at Notre Dame.

AS A KID, WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB?

I always wanted to become an architect, but plans changed. I still don't know what I want to be when I grow up.

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER GOAL?

I plan on becoming Chief, and then either commission, or become the Command Chief here at the 507th.

WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

Being able to mentor younger Airmen into becoming better leaders!

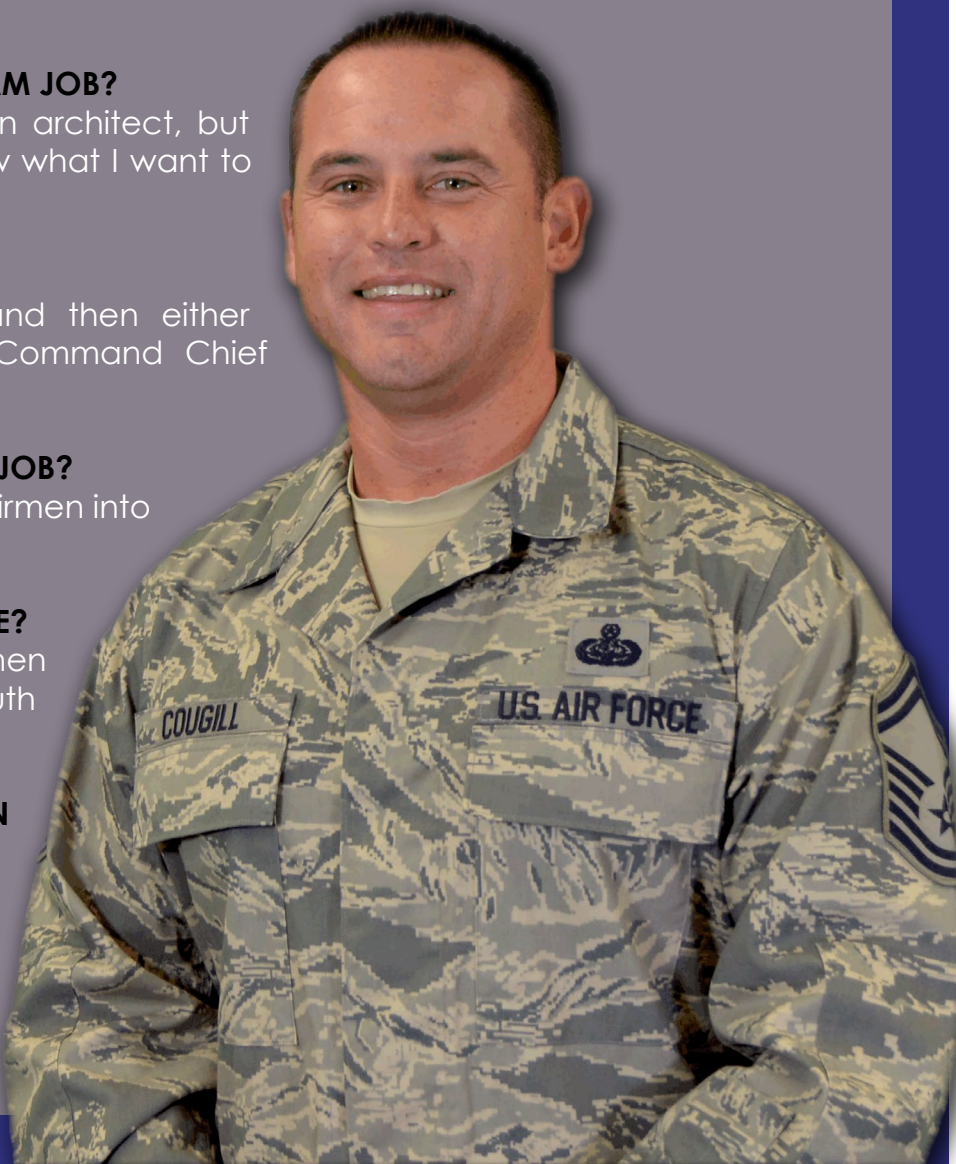
WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE?

I absolutely cannot stand it when people chew with their mouth open or smack while eating!

WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE NEXT 'CLOSER LOOK'?

[EMAIL YOUR SUBMISSION HERE](#)

Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Cougill stands for a photo Oct. 17, 2017, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Samantha Mathison)



PROMOTIONS



MASTER SERGEANT

LATECE CHRISTMON, 507 LRS



TECHNICAL SERGEANT

LESLIE DAVIS, 730 AMTS
RAYMOND BALDWIN, 513 MXS
ADRIAN BERMUDO, 513 MXS
JORDAN NAVARRO, 507 LRS
PHOEBE THURMAN, 507 OSS
STEPHEN CRAWFORD, 507 AMXS
MELISSA SHEPARD, 507 OSS



STAFF SERGEANT

JAY CONSTABLE, 507 MXG
ROBERT GOLLIVER, 507 ARW
CHRISTINA GRAHAM, 513 MXS
AARON PLOURDE, 507 AMXS
HARLAN SMITH, 507 AMXS
T JON BECENTI, 507 AMXS
CASEY COTTRELL, 507 LRS
JOSHUA COX, 72 APS



SENIOR AIRMAN

MATTHEW LONG, 513 MXS
TAYLOR ADAMSON, 507 SFS
SUSAN DAVES, 507 SFS
BROOKE DOBBINS, 465 ARS
DYLAN WALKER, 507 AMXS



AIRMAN FIRST CLASS

BROKS KEESEE, 513 OSS
JOHNNY KHENG, 72 APS



AIRMAN

EKINE SONE, 72 APS

Chapel Services



Ch. (Lt. Col.) Dwight Magnus, 507th Air Refueling Wing Chaplain, leads an invocation May 15, 2016. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)

UTA Weekends

Protestant Service:

**Sunday @ 0730 Bldg. 1056,
(970 AACS Auditorium)**

Catholic Mass:

**Sunday @ 0730 Bldg. 1059
(465 ARS Briefing Room)**

Contact the 507th ARW Chapel Staff at 734-1912. The office is located in Bldg. 1043, Rm. 4



Your Tinker Center of Religious Excellence stands ready to develop and nourish your spiritual fitness. Our team is passionate, well-trained and equipped to meet your needs. We have a variety of great opportunities right here on base for you. There is a place for you here at Tinker Chapel. Come connect with us!



CATHOLIC SPIRITUAL FITNESS

WEEKLY MASS

Mon, Wed, Fri	1130
Saturday	1700
Sunday	0900

CONFESSION

Saturday	1530-1630 (or by appt)
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WEEKLY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Monday	1900 (Retreat in Daily Life)
Thursday	1300 (Ladies Rosary Guild)
Friday	0930 (CWOC, first Friday)
Sunday	1000 (Pre-baptism, last Sunday)
Sunday	1030 (Pre-K-12th Class)

PROTESTANT SPIRITUAL FITNESS

SUNDAY

Sunday School	0930
Worship Service	1100
Wee Church	0930/1100 (6 mo-3yrs)
Children's Church	1100 (4 yrs-11 yrs)

WEDNESDAY

Community Dinner	1800 (Sep-May)
Men's Bible Study	1900
Women's Bible Study	1900
Youth of the Chapel	1900 (6-12 grade)
Children of the Chapel	1900 (4yrs-11yrs)
Wee Church	1900 (6 mo-3yrs)

CONTACT US @ 405-734-2111

GLORIFYING GOD. SERVING AIRMEN. PRODUCING EXCELLENCE.

OKIES CELEBRATE

45TH ANNIVERSARY

Story by Master Sgt. Grady Epperly

AT TINKER



The men and women of the 507th Air Refueling Wing pose for a wing photo at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., Oct 23, 2014. (U.S. Air Force Photo/TSgt. Lauren Gleason)

This year marks the 45th Anniversary of the 507th Air Refueling Wing operating out of Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. The 507th ARW is the largest Air Force Reserve Command flying unit in the state.

The wing operates eight KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft, providing aerial refueling to U.S. and NATO aircraft in times of peace, war and national emergency. The 507th ARW trains aircrew on the KC-135 and the C-17 Globemaster III at a geographically separated unit, the 730th Air Mobility Training Squadron, Altus AFB, Oklahoma, where KC-46 Pegasus flight training will begin in the near future.

Okies fly two to three missions daily and off-loads fuel in support of operations worldwide. They fly over 3,000 hours annually in support of national defense requirements and, additionally, serve as the support backbone for the 513th Air Control Group, the Air Force Reserve's only associate E-3 Sentry Airborne and Warning Control System.

The 507th ARW also provides peacetime personnel and support functions for the 35th Combat Communications Squadron. Expeditionary medical support rounds out the wing to make it one of the Reserve Command's most valuable assets.

For the full story, **CLICK HERE**

Once an Okie always an Okie:

The history of Reserve Airmen at Tinker

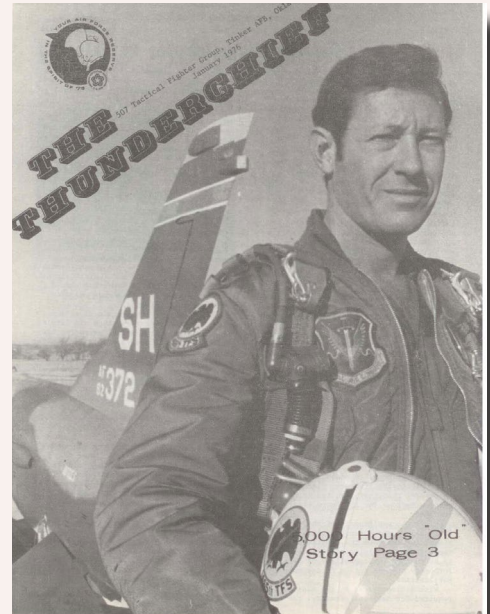
By Maj. Jon Quinlan,
507th Air Refueling Wing, Chief of Public Affairs

U.S. Air Force Reserve units served here dating back to June 1946, when they were still part of the Army Air Forces. Since that time, Air Force Reserve units on base have flown bombers, trainers, transports, fighters and now command and control and aerial refueling aircraft.

Early Reserve personnel were used as “fillers” to meet worldwide requirements for strategic and tactical forces. These individuals were from stateside units who volunteered to augment the U.S. and allied forces overseas.

The first Reservists served in the 177th Army Air Force Base Unit, which would eventually become the 310th Bomb Wing, Light in July 10, 1947. Records of the time indicate they trained in the AT-7 Navigator and AT-11 Kansan. They also operated one C-47 that was used primarily for transporting Reservists to training at Tinker Field. Unfortunately, most of those aircraft were destroyed in the infamous “Tinker Tornado” of March 20, 1948.

This year marks the 45th Anniversary for the 507th ARW operating out of Tinker and although the unit has seen many name changes over the years, its basic mission has remained the same; to organize, train and equip combat-ready Citizen Airmen to provide strategic deterrence and global capabilities. (Continued online)



The Thunderchief was the official magazine of the 507th Tactical Fighter Group located here. The cover features the tail of a F-105 Thunderchief and a 465th Tactical Fighter Squadron pilot. (U.S. Air Force photo)



The C-124 Globemaster II was the aircraft flown by the 937th Military Airlift Group here, which was inactivated as part of the retirement of the aircraft in 1972. (U.S. Air Force photo)

To read the full story, [CLICK HERE](#).

Congratulations **CCAF Graduates**

AEROSPACE GROUND EQUIPMENT TECHNOLOGY

Senior Master Sgt. David Brunsmann

AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY

Master Sgt. Marcus Bentley
Master Sgt. Wendy Robison
Tech. Sgt. Roberta Blankenship
Tech. Sgt. Victor Foster
Tech. Sgt. Christopher Kim
Tech. Sgt. Mary Ly
Staff Sgt. Stephen Crawford
Staff Sgt. Nathalie Hamilton
Staff Sgt. Rachel Parker

AVIATION MANAGEMENT

Tech. Sgt. Madison Harmon

AVIONIC SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY

Tech. Sgt. Jacob Woods
Staff Sgt. Kirsten Milkowski
Senior Airman T Jon Becenti

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Tech. Sgt. Celeste Sutton

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Tech. Sgt. Steven Young
Staff Sgt. Ty Bremerman

EDUCATION AND TRAINING MANAGEMENT

Master Sgt. Lorena Bolding

LOGISTICS

Senior Airman Charmaine Jones

PRACTICAL NURSING TECHNOLOGY

Staff Sgt. Julianna Divett
Staff Sgt. Eddie Jackson

TRANSPORTATION

Tech. Sgt. Michkala Deforest
Staff Sgt. Ayub Munyenye

MY REASON 'WHY'

By Col. Dana Nelson, 507th Air Refueling Wing vice commander

I roll out of bed at 3 a.m. to catch a flight headed west. I'm tired, hungry, and in need of coffee. I'm thinking about why I leave my family every month to serve. What is it that motivates me to travel half way across the country? Is it a sense of service, contributing to a mission, affecting change or something larger? No one gets excited about a computer-based training event or an early morning meeting on a Saturday.

I cannot be the only person who asks this motivation question when the alarm clock booms. So, we have to ask ourselves, "What drives us to stay the course and show up for drill?" And, more importantly, "Why do we do what we do?"

You often hear the typical clichés as to why folks join the military; service to country, sense of duty or to protect the freedoms we hold dear. Beyond the clichés, some join for tangible reasons, like education benefits, a paycheck or to learn a trade. Certainly, all of these are very valid reasons to serve. But, honestly, is that really 'why' we serve?

The reason why I signed up to join the military was for an adventure. My active duty career was filled with countless TDYs across the globe to many interesting, and some not-so-interesting, places. I did amazing things and met fascinating people.

After leaving active duty, I had the same experiences in the Reserve. However, those adventures and experiences only motivated me to a point. I realized I needed more. I needed a new 'why.' Why do I wake up for an early flight? And why do I leave my family



Col. Dana Nelson, 507th Air Refueling Wing vice commander, poses for an official photo Sep. 13, 2016, at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. (U.S. Air Force courtesy photo)

behind for drill weekend?

Col. Eric Jenkins, my predecessor, said it best, "You have to come here and be a part of this family. These folks are amazing!" He enthusiastically wanted me to be part of the Okie family. He already knew what I have now realized; that my passion, my 'why,' is to serve you, my Okie family.

This is what inspires me to drill each month. It is why I try to do my best in service to you. It is why I try to foster an environment that prepares you for the next opportunity. It is why I try to ensure that you have the trust of leadership. It is why I strive to grow a team of leaders. It is why I am here.

If I approached you and asked you why you showed up for drill weekend, would you know the answer? You should. You need to understand what drives you to do what you do. What is your 'why?' Find what inspires you and know it before you are asked.

Without question, joining the Okie family was the right decision for me. It seems to be the right decision for almost everyone. Just recently, during our 507th Operations Group commander Col. Chris Amend's retirement, he commented about the amazing Okie family and how proud he was to be a part of it. Every time I hear comments similar to those of Col. Jenkins and Col. Amend, I smile and think, "This is 'why' I am here."

Thank you for giving up your weekend for the team and the family. And, thank you for being my 'why.'

465th refuels Fighting Falcons



Six F-16C Fighting Falcons from the 549th Combat Training Squadron from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., receive fuel from the Okies at Tinker Air Force Base, Oct. 27, 2017. The 465th Air Refueling Squadron Okies offloaded 30,000 pounds of fuel during the flight from Nevada to Louisiana. (U.S. Air Force photos/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)



LT. GOVERNOR TODD LAMB *BASE IMMERSION TOUR*



Oklahoma Lt. Governor Todd Lamb toured Tinker Air Force Base Nov. 1, 2017, and its various missions, to include the 507th Air Refueling Wing.

Lamb received an overview of the 507th ARW mission and saw first-hand the refueling combat capabilities of the KC-135R Stratotanker. (U.S. Air Force photos/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)



Staff Sgt. Jason Alexander, 507th Maintenance Squadron Aero Repair shop technician, transports a KC-135 tire in full Mission-Oriented Protective Posture Oct. 14, 2017 during an ATSO raining exercise. The Aero Repair shop is responsible for heavy maintenance on the KC-135, including landing gear, flight controls, and other major components. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)

